

## Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2265

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 0106

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ETRD, PGOV, GY YEAR

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM'S NEW YEAR INTERVIEW CLARIFIES GOG'S  
POSITION ON SOME ASPECTS OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY FOR 1976

REF: GEORGETOWN 0067

SUMMARY: DURING A 45-MINUTE RADIO INTERVIEW WHICH SUBSTITUTED FOR HIS  
ANNUAL STATE OF NATION ADDRESS, PM BURNHAM GAVE THE GOG'S POSITION  
ON VARIOUS DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES AND ISSUES. HE ANNOUNCED  
PRESIDENT CHUNG WILL BE RE-NOMINATED IN MARCH, IMPLYING HE WOULD  
SERVE ONLY UNTIL NEW CONSTITUTION APPROVED. SOME OF THE TOPICS  
DISCUSSED WERE THE PNC'S USE OF THE COOPERATIVE METHOD IN ACHIEVING  
MARXIST-LENINIST SOCIALISM, THE RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
WHICH GIVES THE GOG THE RIGHT TO EXPROPRIATE PRIVATE PROPERTY  
WITHOUT PAYING MARKET VALUE, THE ECONOMY, THE SUGAR STRIKES OF 1975,  
GOG SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA, AND THE FORTHCOMING NEW CONSTITUTION. END  
SUMMARY.

ON JANUARY 10, PM FORBES BURNHAM WAS INTERVIEWED BY GENERAL  
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MANAGER OF GUYANA BROADCASTING COMPANY AND CHIEF POLITICAL REPOR-

TER FOR THE GUYANA CHRONICLE. BOTH ENTITIES ARE GOG-OWNED. THE QUESTIONS WERE NOT PENETRATING, AND THE ANSWERS APPEARED TO BE REHEARSED. BURNHAM GAVE THE FOLLOWING VIEWS:

A. PRESIDENT CHUNG: PRESIDENT CHUNG WILL BE RE-NOMINATED IN MARCH AT THE EXPIRATION OF HIS TERM OF OFFICE (IMPLIEDLY TO SERVE ONLY UNTIL THE NEW CONSTITUTION IS ADOPTED). HE UNAWARE OF WHETHER THE NEW CONSTITUTION WILL INCLUDE AN EXECUTIVE OR CEREMONIAL PRESIDENT.

B. NEW CONSTITUTION: AS 1974 DECLARATION OF SOPHIA PRESCRIBED, PARTY COMMITTEE IS DRAFTING NEW CONSTITUTION. LOCAL PARTY GROUPS WILL THEN DISCUSS AND PROPOSE AMENDMENTS. PNC WILL THEN APPROVE IT, PARLIAMENT WILL PASS IT AND A REFERENDUM WILL DECIDE IF IT IS ACCEPTABLE. BURNHAM HAS NOT EVEN SEEN FIRST DRAFT YET AND CONSTITUTION WILL NOT BE READY FOR REPUBLIC DAY IN FEBRUARY.

C. THE PNC'S UTILIZATION OF MARXIST-LENINIST PRINCIPLES: GOG FOLLOWS BOTH THE CONCEPTS OF MARX AND THE TECHNIQUES AND STRATEGY OF LENIN FOR MOVING THE NATION FROM A CAPITALIST TO SOCIALIST ECONOMIC SYSTEM. PNC DIFFERS FROM ORTHODOX MARXISTS IN USING COOPERATIVE AS MACHINE TO BRING ABOUT SOCIALISM RATHER THAN FOCUSING EXCLUSIVELY ON STATE OWNED PROPERTY. LIKE MANY OTHER SOCIALIST STATES, PNC DOES NOT SHARE VIEW THERE SHOULD BE NO PRIVATE SECTOR AT ALL.

D. RECENT AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION PERMITTING THE GOVT TO EXPROPRIATE PROPERTY AT 1939 VALUATION WITH PAYMENTS IN GOVT BONDS:

CLAIMED THAT THIS LAW IS DIRECTED ONLY AT PERSONS OR COMPANIES HOLDING LARGE TRACTS OF LAND WHICH IS USED FOR EXPLOITATION OF INDIVIDUALS AND AT UNUSED LANDS. HE ANTICIPATES THE GOVT WILL EVENTUALLY PLACE LIMITATIONS ON QUANTITY OF LAND WHICH MAY BE OWNED BY INDIVIDUALS AS HE STATED IN THE DECLARATION OF SOPHIA IN 1974. EXPROPRIATED LANDS WILL BE ALLOCATED TO COOPERATIVES. HE IS NOT IN POSITION TO ANTICIPATE WHETHER PAYMENT WILL BE MADE IN BONDS TO BOOKERS WHEN IT IS NATIONALIZED.

E. GOVT AND PNC OFFICIALS DECLARATION OF ASSETS: 1) OVER  
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150 DECLARATIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED AND MUST BE CHECKED. HE HAS SO FAR DISCOVERED NO BREACH. THOSE IN BREACH OF CODE OF ETHICS WILL BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHEN DECLARATIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED. 2) THE SAME LIMITATIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF RENTAL PROPERTY, STOCK, ETC; NOW APPLICABLE TO GOG AND PNC OFFICIALS WILL EVENTUALLY BE EXPANDED TO ENTIRE POPULATION, WITH EXCEPTION FOR RETIRED PERSONS DEPENDENT ON RENTS UNTIL STATE IS IN POSITION TO SUPPORT THOSE RETIREES.

F. NEW AGRICLTURAL LAND (AID PLEASE NOTE): NEW LAND BROUGHT UNDER CULTIVATION THROUGH GOVT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WILL BE ALLOCATED TO COOPERATIVES OR THE STATE, PRIMARILY.

G. GUYANA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION: AT END OF 1975 HE STATED, GUYANA HAD FOREIGN RESERVE OF 256 MILLION GUYANA DOLLARS. 85 MILLION OVER SURPLUSES OF 1974. GOG LOST 100 MILLION GUYANA DOLLARS IN FOREIGN CURRRNCY AS RESULT OF TWO SUGAR STRIKES.

H. GOG SUPPORT OF MPLA: GOG SUPPORTS STRUGGLE OF MPLA, AND WILL MAKE ITS POSITION CLEAR ON RECOGNITION AFTER OAU CONFERENCE (SEE REFTEL).

I. PM'S VIEWS FOR 1976: DIFFICULT YEAR AHEAD, DUE TO USE OF 1975 SURPLUSES FOR 1976 BUDGET PROGRAMS, HIGH PRICES FOR IMPORTED MANUFACTURED GOODS, AND LOW PRICES FOR EXPORTED COMMODITIES. NATION MUST PRODUCE MORE EXPORTABLE ITEMS AND REDUCE IMPORTS (ESPECIALLY AUTOMOBILES AND TEXTILES). BRINGING THE COUNTRY OUT OF IMPERIALIST RULE, WHICH IS THE FINAL STAGE OF CAPITALISM, INTO SOCIALISM, TAKES TIME.  
MATTHEWS

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